

THE NEWARK PARTNERSHIP FOR LEAD SAFE CHILDREN

Housing & Education Committee Meeting

October 11, 2000

Attendance

Crystal Motlasz	NJDHSS
Lea McReynolds	Gateway
John Weber	NJ Citizen Action
Annette Hubbard	NJPHA Concerned Black Nurses
Natasha Daniel	Horizon Mercy
Lewis Herd	Summit Bank
Guy Knowles	Newark Emergency Services for Families
Betty Simpson	Nwk. DHHS-Lead Dept.
Tyrone Tutt	United Community Corporation
Gwendolyn McDowell	Program For Parents
Adrienne Giddings	Newark Public Schools
Candy Lively	Friendly Fuld H. S.
Lorie Coxson	HUD Tenants Coalition
Roberta Swenson	NJPIES
Tracey Jenkins	Children's Hospital- Lead Case Mgt

Time started: 2:15pm

Site: J Conference Center Room 1B

Time ended: 4:00pm

Reviewed the minutes from the August 9, 2000 meeting and accepted.

HOUSING

Topic: Statewide Legislation

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed The Lead Abatement Assistance Bill #2339. The Speaker of the Assembly, Jack Collins was instrumental in its passing. Some of the provisions of the Bill are low cost loans to abate lead hazards with loan guarantees to Summit Bank. Some of the money would be allocated to grants. The NJ Apartment Association does not support this Bill due to the \$2.00 rental fee charge which would be imposed on each unit to assist for grant payments.

Topic: F/u to Lead Inspections on Request

Some of the Partnership members met with Council Member Mamie Bridgeforth on September 20th. At this time, Lead inspection on request lacks support due to cost concerns of abatement for homeowners. The council woman feels several of the wards have elderly landlords who would leave their apartments vacate, if an abatement were necessary. They lack the funding to remove the hazards. Also there was discussion of the Lead Abatement Assistance Fund Bill, which would be considered as a solution to the problem. The council woman did inform us of the City training 6-7 of the pre-existing

housing inspectors in the Division of Inspections and Enforcement about lead hazard detection in the home.

As a result of this meeting the Partnership was invited to the Healthcare Committee that meets every first Monday of the month. The council woman would like us to discuss our position on this request with the committee members.

During the meeting John Weber shared with the group a letter that had been addressed to council woman Bridgeforth in support of our efforts, sixty (60) signatures were noted. This letter will be presented at the Healthcare Committee meeting. The partnership will be obtaining more signatures through their organizational contacts.

An announcement was made of the City having five (5) full time Lead Inspectors.

Conclusion: If you have an interest in attending the Healthcare Committee meeting you are welcomed. The date is Monday November 6, from 10:00am-12:00 pm.

Topic: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention City-Wide Plan

The initial meeting for the Plan took place on August 18. The meeting was attended by a State consultant, Sharon Postel; Acting Lead Coordinator, Peter Dillon; Betty Simpson, RN with the Lead Case Management program through the Newark Department of Health; Lea McReynolds & John Weber from the Partnership.

There will be the development of a Baseline Assessment of the Lead Poisoning problem which will discuss the statistics of the Newark City children with lead levels of 20 ug/dl, the impact on healthcare costs as a result, the impact on community resources, gaps and pitfalls in challenging this problem, the role of the Partnership, the successful interventions to this problem.

The goals for this Plan: increase the number of children being tested for lead poisoning, decrease the number of children being poisoned, continue to work with the HMOs to stay abreast of chart auditing results, continued education to the community and assistance to the landlords in securing funds for abatement. The time table for the Plan will take from three (3) to six (6) months. Sharon will be contacting the NJ Physician's Lead Advisory Committee for their comments. The next meeting will reflect their input.

Recommendations: Any Partnership members interested in attending future meetings please notify John or Lea in advance.

EDUCATION

Topic: Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week-October 22-28, 2000

The Partnership will attend a display table in the lobby of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center on Wednesday Oct. 25, from 9:00am-2:00pm. There will be a variety of Lead poisoning prevention brochures, the continuous showing of the Sesame Street Lead Away

Video, a quiz puzzle game on Lead Hazards; giveaways of the Sesame Street comic book, growth charts with a preventive lead message inscribed with the name of the Partnership.

Lorie Coxson will attend the table from 9:00am-12:00pm, John Weber from 12:00-2:00pm.

On Thursday at University Hospital from 9:00am-2:00pm, the display table will be attended by Lea McReynolds from 9:00-12:00pm, and Guy Knowles from 12:00-2:00pm.

Gwendolyn McDowell volunteered to be an alternate.

We are seeking high school students to distribute flyers to the Newark merchants, barber shops and hair salons. Adrienne will contact Miranda Hazelwood from Teen Project for assistance.

The City has their major event scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 22 for a Movie Matinee at Loews Theatre that is sponsoring 100 tickets to be given to the homeless shelters and the other 150 distributed on a first come first serve basis. Inside the theatre goody bags with Lead information will have been placed under the kids seats. There will be the appearance of favorite children characters like Batman and another childrens favorite. The Sesame Street Lead Away video will also be shown. This event will be attended by Mayor Sharpe, with an invitation extended to the media.

There will be a puppet show by Rosemary Horner at the JFK recreation center on Monday October 23.

A pre-Halloween costume roller rink party will be held at Branch Park Roller Rink. Prizes will be awarded for the five (5) best costumes.

A poster contest will be judged in the Rotunda at City Hall on Friday October 27, the prizes are as follows: four (4) winners will be awarded a \$200.00 savings bond. Summit Bank will be one of the donators.

Multiple programs are planned during the day for the children, and in the evening for the parents.

Topic: Update on Community Education Outreach

Churches: Contact was made with Monsignor Scheteleck's office to arrange for an appointment to address the issue of the Lead poisoning prevention classes. The Monsignor meets monthly with the 12 member clergy, hopefully he can relate this request to them.

Contact was made at the office of the Black Minister Council leader, Reverend Reginald Jackson. I am awaiting an appointment to speak with the Reverend.

John has sent a letter to Council Member Corey Booker, who is known to be a member of the Metropolitan Baptist Church. Since February the Partnership has attempted to conduct a program here.

Suggestions were given to contact Dr. Verner, Head of North Jersey Baptist Association; and Reverend Whatley at St. James AME Church.

Hospitals: To contact the Pediatric nurse managers at Newark Beth Israel and UMDNJ about the in-Service for Lead, this would be a good avenue of reaching the nurses, nursing students, and nursing assistants. The program would have more an interest for the nurses with contact hours being provided.

Nursing Schools: The Nursing department at Essex County College is very interested in having a program for their nursing students. Their Pediatric clinical rotation will take place in the spring; at that time they would like to have a class.

The Nursing department at Rutgers would also like to have a program at their college. The chair of the undergraduate department will be contacting me for an appointment.

Elementary Schools: The Chad School South 9th Street might be interested in someone conducting the lead presentation at their PTA meeting in November, I am awaiting the charge person to call me.

Teen Powerhouse is an after school based program located on Market Street next to Essex County College, they have invited the Partnership to do a presentation for six (6) teen mothers on October 19th at 3:15pm.

Next Meeting Date: December 13, 2000, C Wing 7th Floor Conference Room